**Present status for construction of buildings for Vizhinjam Research Centre**

3410. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of land measuring 1.7 acre offered by the State Government to the Vizhinjam Research Centre of CMFRI for the construction of buildings;

(b) whether his Ministry has given promise for the construction of the building in the land offered by the State Government during the Eleventh Plan;

(c) whether the land has been taken over; and

(d) the steps taken for the construction of buildings for the Vizhinjam Research Centre as promised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LALBHURIA): (a) The Vizhinjam Research Centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi was offered 1.7 acres of land by the Government of Kerala in the year 1995 for establishment of Centre for Development and Transfer of Mariculture Technology (CDTMT). Subsequently, the proposal for construction of permanent building for Vizhinjam Research Centre in the land offered by the Government of Kerala was not agreed to by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), as the title of the land was vested with the State Department of fisheries. However, in March 2003, the Government of Kerala offered to lease out the land in favour of CMFRI/ICAR for 25 years at a concessional rate of 1% of the market value of the land. Meanwhile, while formulating the Tenth Five Year Plan proposal of the Institute, the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) decided to merge the Centre with the Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI. Subsequently, this decision of EFC was kept in abeyance until further order. The Research Centre is maintaining its *status quo.*

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute has made a provision in its XI Plan EFC proposal to construct Laboratory-cum-office building for the Vizhinjam Research Centre, which is under process.

**Guidance to farmers for justifiable prices of their yields**

t3411. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: (a) whether Government will provide guidance/training to the marginal and medium level farmers for formation of companies collectively in order to provide reasonable prices to farmers for their produce;

(b) if so, by when the plan will be formulated in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Presently, there are rton specific programmes to provide guidance/ training to the marginal land medium level farmers for formation of companies collectively in order to provide reasonable prices to farmers for their produce. However, the Centrally

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sponsored Scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" launched in May, 2005 aims to support State Governments' efforts in revitalization of the extension system by promoting a new institutional arrangement for technology dissemination in the form of an Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) at district level. ATMAs have been constituted in 565 districts of 27 States and 2 UTs so far.

One of the important features of the scheme is to mobilize the commodity base Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs) at village level, which in turn are expected to federate at block, district an State level. These groups are supported for their capacity building and skill development and are also provided revolving fund for their activities. Under capacity building activities FIGs are also provided guidance about the better marketing opportunities and advantage of formation of cooperatives/producers' companies. Further, under the market led extension activities of Central Sector Research and Information Network Scheme also such guidance/training is being provided to the representatives of Farmers' Groups.

**Production and requirement of cotton**

3412. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production of cotton this season;

(b) the estimated requirement of cotton in the country, particularly in the handloom sector;

(c) the estimates of world-wide production and whether there is any shortfall; and

(d) the steps being taken to meet the deficit, if any, in the ensuing season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) As per the 3rd Advance Estimates released on 22nd April, 2008, production of cotton in the country is estimated at 23.19 million bales of 170 kg. each (3.94 million tonnes) during 2007-08.

(b) The requirement of cotton in the country during 2007-08 is estimated at 24.16 million bales (4.11 million tonnes). Requirement of cotton for the handloom sector is not available separately.

(c) Production of cotton in the world during 2007-08 is estimated at 26.31 million tonnes against the estimated consumption of 26.72 million tonnes.

(d) A Technology Mission on cotton is under implementation in the cotton growing States of the country since 2000-01 for increasing the production and productivity of cotton by focusing on increasing availability of cotton seeds, covering more area under hybrids, thrust for evolving area specific technology, popularization of integrated pest management, increasing efficient use of irrigation water, field demonstrations for transfer of technology to farmers and farmers' training.

The Central Institute for Cotton Research and the Centres of the All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project are developing high yielding varities/hybrids to increase the production of cotton in the country. These organizations also produce breeder seeds of varieties and parental lines of hybrids for fiirther multiplication by seed producing agencies for supply of certified seeds to cotton growers.